

University of Rhode Island DigitalCommons@URI

National Museum Act Program (1973-1974)

Education: National Endowment for the Arts and
Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996)

2016

National Museum Act Program (1973-1974): Article 01

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_68

Recommended Citation

"National Museum Act Program (1973-1974): Article 01" (2016). *National Museum Act Program (1973-1974)*. Paper 10.
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_68/10

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Museum Act Program (1973-1974) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

KANSAS CITY MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND SCIENCE

3218 GLADSTONE BOULEVARD

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

INTRODUCTION

The Kansas City Museum of History and Science is operated by the Kansas City Museum Association under contract from, and in facilities owned by, the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

Exhibits utilize 55% of a total of 40,000 square feet of available space. Funding comes largely from a museum tax levy and is sufficient for operation at past levels, but not for new programs proposed in 1972-73.

In a study initiated in 1967 and extending to 1970, the Lawrence Leiter Company, a nationally respected consulting firm, intensively surveyed Kansas City's needs and opportunities in museum services. They concluded that Kansas City could provide more than 2,000,000 museum experiences annually if a complete general museum facility (all museum services excluding art) were developed.

A plan, now adopted by the Museum's Board of Governors, calls for conversion of existing space to Regional History exhibits only, and the construction of a new Science Center in an area near, but not in, the central business district in which to present the museum's natural history and other science exhibits and services. A new major planetarium/environment theatre is included in this proposal.

Attempts over the past few years to finance the expansion of the museum with public money have failed. New efforts seeking private funding were begun in 1972, and the actual funding drive will begin before the end of 1973.

It should be stated here that it is the belief of our planners that museum modernization of the right kind would stimulate local support once begun in the community.

From a relatively early stage continuing support and funding should naturally flow from the public as a positive and even enthusiastic response to new museum experiences which touch them and relate to them. The long range success in the design and operation of important new museum work can be demonstrated by popular acceptance and participation. Federal support introducing new programs and new ideas in modernization would be multiplied many times.

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30TH

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>Lawrence-Leiter Projected</u>
Gen'l. Attendance	135,000	147,000	156,000	132,000	144,000	2,000,000
Classroom Units	20,000	17,000	21,000	24,000	31,000	100,000*
Exhibit Space sq. ft.	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	150,000
Operating Budget	235,000	330,000	291,000	306,000	312,000	1,270,000**

1. The Kansas City Museum offers tours and classroom units presented by a full time teaching staff of 5. A voluntary teacher group of 30 provides additional tours. In the fiscal year 1972-1973 (ended April 30, 1973) the following services were added:

- added 7,320 elementary students to the number of children served through school cooperative programs, to bring the total of children for the current academic year to 30,000 (compared with 23,000 in 1971-1972)
- added a new study unit on Urban Biology, for a total of 16 different study units for elementary school children in the general fields of Life Sciences, Earth Sciences, Social Studies, and Space Sciences.
- started internship program for area colleges. These college students have the opportunity to use the Kansas City Museum as a laboratory for full-time or part-time work "in residence", through cooperative arrangements between the college and the Museum.

* Staff estimate

** Includes new exhibit design/construction crews

- started Practicum program for area college students majoring in education. This allows college students to receive academic credit for a Practicum course, through cooperative arrangements between the college and the Museum.
- Saturday Nature Classes for preschoolers and elementary students.
- Summer classes for preschoolers and students in elementary, junior high, and senior high grades.
- Evening courses for adults.
- Increased its traveling exhibits (designed for schools) from 34 to 48.
- Approximately 20 subjects given by staff personnel for public meetings and lectures.
- Special mini-courses to help scouts meet requirements for 7 merit badges.
- Special lectures for college students who visit the Museum.

Proposed new programs, 1973-74 (by Director of Education):

- lectureship in Biology at University of Missouri at Kansas City.
- consultant to Mid-Continent Educational Laboratory.
- consultant to Natural Science for Youth Foundation.
- research director of graduate student in psychology at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.
- Museum Methods" course at University of Missouri at Kansas City.

These new added programs are the primary cause of the 20% budget increase mentioned in the following paragraph.

2. Past funding has come from a museum tax levy (90% of total) and other miscellaneous sources. For 1973-74 the budget will be increased approximately 20% and most additional funds will come from membership dues and contributions which were placed into capital improvements funds in the past.

Admission charges are made only for planetarium shows. Income is inconsequential in a small and obsolete facility. New programs and a more modern instrument will increase planetarium activity and income by 1974-75

No revenue sharing funding has been approved although application was made for 1973-74,

Private funding will be sought for all proposed programs and new proposed construction at the successful conclusion of negotiations for a new site. If negotiations are unsuccessful for our preferred site we have another site actually available.